



Minutes

EAST PRAIRIE PTA GENERAL MEETING

February 7th, 2017

Attendance: Claudia Lopez, Abby Tumang, Angel Weiss, Iwona Dobek, Jill Kempner, Tammy Manta, Zhanna Soloveychik, Jordan Stephen, May Ibrahim, Tamara Strumfeld

1. Call to order/Welcome:

2. President's Report:

- A. PTA Calendar Correction- We noticed that the days in the month of July are incorrect. Please note that July 1st is a Saturday, not a Friday. We apologize for this error.
- B. Magnet Sales- Thank you to all of the families who purchased EPS magnets! We sold a total of 50 magnets. The deadline for purchase was January 27th, but if you would still like one please feel free to contact Claudia Lopez via email claudialopez1025@gmail.com.
- C. 8th grade graduation donation- In the past the PTA has paid for the D.J. (directly) for the 8th grade dance, This year the cost of the DJ exceeds the cost the the PTA has budgeted. Therefore, we will write a check to EPS in the amount of \$400 and it will be deposited into the school graduation budget line, which will be used by the graduation planning committee as they see fit.
- D. Thank you notes for book fair were read by Abby Tumang. Library staff thanked the PTA and said that they were able to purchase 94 books with the scholastic dollars. Mrs. Mansour and Mrs. Rosenberg also expressed her gratitude for the book fair with thank you cards.
- E. The 8th grade created thank you cards to thank the PTA for providing funds for the graduation dance DJ.
- F. 7 Volunteers needed on Monday 11:15-1 for the Jump Rope for Heart event in the gym. Please contact Beth N. if you are interested and available.

3. Treasurer's Report

- A. Monthly report-January (see attached)
- B. Angel stated that the Panther dollars and Box Tops continues to be a welcome income to the PTA budget. Thank you to Karen Tono for collecting the box tops from families. We received a check for \$371.90!

4. Secretary's Report:

- A. Before the minutes were approved, a question was brought up by Tamara about the religious holidays that will be removed from 2017-2019 school year. She wondered which holidays they were exactly and if this would be soely during construction years or a complete change for the school years to come. Jordan said he will double check with administration regarding the holidays, but that the change will not just be for the construction years. This change will stay in effect after construction is complete.
- B. Iwoana wanted to know when the "draft" calendar will be approved by administration. She expressed that the families should know as soon as possible.
- C. Minutes were approved by Angel and seconded by Tammy.

5. School Report:

- A. Jordan stated that the school in in conversation with the Skokie Park District to meet the needs of the new school calendar for the years during construction.
- B. Skokiecares.org is a new initiative to welcome and support everyone that lives in Skokie. They will begin to distribute signs and buttons at various locations. The ELL parent center, Skokie

Library, and park district are all in support of this initiative. Abby added that we are in discussions with Mrs. Stein to see what we can implement in the school to encourage kindness and acceptance. Karen G., has also expressed interest in the Sandy Hook Promise and how the school/community can benefit from this program. Abby and Claudia will continue discussing this topic with administration and bring an update to the PTA.

6. Committee Reports:

- A. Bike Safety
- B. Box Tops
- C. Calendar
- D. Cultural Arts-Jill stated that there were two very successful assemblies. The first was the Science Alliance for Pre-k-2nd grades. She highly recommends that we use this company again for next year. She thanked Zhanna for her assistance that day and for taking pictures. The second assembly was Chicago Dance Crash, which was “amazing and very professional” Jill stated. She thanked Mrs. De Camp for her suggestion and connection to Dance Crash. There is a possibility of an all school assembly, if budget and time is allowed. Thank you to Jill for all her hard work this year!
- E. Family Art Nights - Thursday February 9th from 6:30-7:30pm in the cafeteria downstairs. Please note the location was switched from the art room to the cafeteria. Thank you to our new coordinators, Tom Warchol and Karen Gavrilovic, for their time and commitment to this great event. Next Family Art night is Thursday, March 2nd. Bring your masks to paint.
- F. Family Picnic
- G. Family Reading Night
- H. Fundraising
- I. Panther Days - March 23 Thursday at Village Inn. They have been so kind as to extend our Panther Night into the weekend. If you bring in your flyer Thursday- Sunday, a percentage of the proceeds will go back to EPS PTA. Thank you to Erick Tumang for coordinating this fundraiser.
- J. Gym Clothes
- K. Health and Safety
- L. Ice Cream Social
- M. Membership
- N. Room Parents/volunteers
- O. School Supply Prepacks
- P. Spiritwear
- Q. Teacher appreciation week
- R. Website and Communications
- S. Partners for Learning
- T. Volunteers

7. Unfinished Business-

- A. New concept for International/cultural event: Last month, Ms. W. came to the meeting to ask about a partnership with the PTA on a new idea for a cultural night/international night. She attended Golf schools' international night to get some ideas for a possible international night at EPS. She brought back a brochure and showed some pictures of their evening. A collaboration

between the school and PTA to create a new event celebrating our diversity would be a wonderful idea for next year. We would like to see if there is anyone interested in starting a committee to organize this event.

- i. Zhana, Mrs. W, and Ioana are interested in coordinating this possible event. Zhana stated that perhaps it could be during winter months and make it "holidays around the world."

8. New Business-

- A. Ioana Salajanu - speaking about International Children's Day.
- B. Jill asked what ever happened to the class pictures. They were never received and many parents paid for them. Jordan will bring up this issue to Mrs. Stein.
- C. Ioana brought up a couple of concerns including-
 - i. Students not enjoying the lunch options. Her daughter has started a petition and has over 100 signatures to change the lunch provider. Ioana has brought up this concern to Mrs. Stein. Ioana asked for a few parents to come in during the lunch time to check on the lunches.
 - ii. She also brought up bullying issues concerning her daughter and the school. She says that lunch, recess, and all around the school day children are subjected to others going out of their way to be rude and hurtful. She would like to see something done about this immediately. Other parents mentioned some of the same concerns. This has also been brought to Mrs. Stein's attention. The conversation circled back to instilling a program of some sort that teaches children about acceptance and being kind.
 - iii. Lastly, Ioana mentioned the combination of the 4/5th classroom as hindering the opportunities for both grade levels. Jordan stated that he would bring these concerns to admin.

9. Adjournment: Abby adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is set for March 7th at 7:00 pm. Please Join Us!